

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

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9. The militia in the USSR is generally disliked and feared. [redacted] the militia was a law unto itself and able to do what it liked. [redacted]

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Principles

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10. [redacted]
11. [redacted] rising discontent among the younger generation in the USSR. Before and during World War II, when young people met in the evening to talk in the street, various stories and tales were the usual subject. After the war, when demobilized soldiers joined the evening parties they told the others what they had seen in other countries. This not only excited the imagination of the young people but also was a cause of much grumbling on conditions in the USSR.
12. [redacted] this discontent in the country districts [redacted] the grumbling still continues.
13. [redacted]
14. [redacted]
15. [redacted]
16. [redacted] No sign-posts are seen in the Russian countryside as, being made of wood, they are considered fuel and the property of anybody who can steal them.
17. [redacted]
18. All Russians are very much interested to know what people in other countries look like. Soviet newspapers often mention other countries and an MCO who reads a newspaper to his troops is invariably asked what the inhabitants of the country mentioned look like.
19. [redacted]
20. [redacted]
21. The ordinary people in the USSR have too little education to understand world problems and for what they do not understand, they rely on explanations given to them in the Soviet press. At the same time an average Russian would like to impress his friends with his knowledge, but having nothing but Soviet sources of information, anything he learns and repeats is exactly what the Soviet official teaching wants him to know.

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22. [redacted]
23. The criticism voiced by ordinary people is not criticism of the Soviet policy, but dissatisfaction with living conditions as very few realize or know what the aims of Soviet policy are, but all would like to have better food, clothing and accommodations.
24. For all material shortcomings Soviet propaganda blames the capitalists and points out to the people that in order to be able to defend itself, the USSR must have a strong army and most modern war equipment. Soviet propaganda stresses that all this enormous expense on the army would not be needed if there were no capitalist encirclement. The term capitalist is coupled with names, according to needs and thus Mr Churchill, Mr Truman or some other leader in the West might be blamed in some local papers for lack of spare parts for tractors.
25. [redacted]
26. The same type of propaganda is carried out among Soviet troops as amongst the civilian population in the USSR because all political indoctrination is based on the Soviet press which interprets the official teaching of the Communist Party. Perhaps the Soviet troops in Germany are more critical because they have had an opportunity to see that country if only from the train window.
27. The following incident took place [redacted] During a political lecture a political instructor stated that before the Soviet troops occupied Germany, the schools in Germany were only for children of capitalists. "But", the instructor went on, "we have changed all this and now you can see hundreds of workers' children entering and leaving these large and beautiful schools". It happened that the date of building was shown on some schools from which it was clear that these schools existed before the arrival of the Soviets. One of the soldiers pointed this out to the officer and remarked that perhaps it was not so bad in Germany after all because the schools could accommodate a great number of capitalists' children, therefore there must have been quite a number of capitalists in such a small place.
28. [redacted] appears that the soldiers had missed the point completely but were delighted that somebody had made a fool of a political instructor.
29. On another occasion a political officer stated that when communism is finally established, heaven will be on earth as the people will not need to work and machines will produce everything by just pressing a button. "Splendid", remarked one of the soldiers, "but in the meantime, comrade, press a button and get us some cigarettes". Everybody laughed, the joker was reprimanded and the lecture went on as if there had been no interruption.
30. Such incidents, however, are not numerous and are regarded as a bit of fun although this might not be the intention of the author of a remark.
31. In general there appear to be two issues involved. One, a domestic one, is the low standard of life which causes the troops to grumble. The other is the external policy of the Soviet Union which an average soldier does not understand and he therefore follows obediently the guidance given in the Soviet press. As far as the first issue is concerned the Soviet government appears to ignore the occasional individual grumbling but takes care that the grumbling should not become organized.
32. Concerning Soviet external policy, everything possible is done to prevent people from obtaining any information other than provided by official sources on this subject. [redacted]

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33.

34. [redacted] forbidden to study geography because [redacted] maps [redacted] proved that the so-called "encirclement" of the USSR was nothing to fear as all the countries surrounding the USSR were much smaller than the USSR and, if one was to believe the Soviet press, plunged in economic depression and administrative chaos.

35. This also proved [redacted] that the Soviet troops were not permitted to think for themselves and everything the authorities did was to prevent the troops from thinking.

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[redacted] Note: [redacted] how the Soviet soldier will behave in a future war [redacted] "The soldier will fight for the defense of his country - he does not know anything else" (SOLDAT BUDYET BOROTSYA DLYA ZASHCHITY RODINY - BOLSHE ON NICHEVO NYE ZNAYET.)

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36. The whole Soviet discipline and education of a soldier is that a Soviet soldier should fight his enemy to the last drop of blood and be killed rather than surrender. Surrender or retreat are considered the most dishonorable offenses a soldier can commit.

37. While the Soviet Army regulations use the word enemy for the purpose of instruction, the political officers go further and tell the troops who their enemy is. At the moment, and for the past year or so, the USA and Great Britain are openly named as enemies.

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39. For some unknown reason everybody expects a war to start soon [redacted] because of the intensive military and political training, issue of additional MF to Soviet units, issue of a new Gorunov MMG [redacted] One feels that great preparations are being made by the Soviet Army and for peace no army needs to make such preparations.

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40. The latest Soviet military songs are more and more "go forward" calls. [redacted] quite a number appeared recently.

41. When no officer is present soldiers sometimes substitute their own words for the official words of a military song. Here are two fragments of the soldiers version:

(a) According to plan, according to plan,
Each should produce excrement kilogramme.
And he who produces a ton
Will have a medal pinned on.
But, how to produce a kilogramme
When the "norm" is 300 gramme.

(b) With naked belly, patched bast shoes it's no fun
To fulfil a five-year plan.

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